

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/944,587

Examiner

Joseph S. Del Sole

Applicant(s)

SATO ET AL.

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response of 9/9/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-7.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04 September 2001 and 09 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
  - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
  - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)               |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    | 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>1003</u> |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____               | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                       |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance      |
|  | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other   |

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. The drawings were received on 9/9/03. These drawings are accepted.
2. The terminal disclaimer filed on 9/9/03 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of US Patent 6,523,246 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.
3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. John Mion on 10/21/03.

The application has been amended as follows:

in the claims: cancel claim 8 (see attached listing of claims).

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a method and apparatus of an auxiliary jig provided between jigs for preventing the jigs from falling down and for restraining a resin contained in the fiber-reinforced composite from flowing out from an interspace between the jigs, wherein the auxiliary jig has a rigid portion and an elastic portion.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### **Correspondence**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph S. Del Sole whose telephone number is (703) 308-6295. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Wanda Walker, can be reached at (703) 308-0457. The official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for both non-after finals and for after finals.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

J.S.D.  
October 21, 2003

*Joseph S. Del Sole*

*[Signature]*  
**ROBERT DAVIS**  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 1300 / 200

*10/23/02*

Claims

1. (previously presented) An auxiliary jig used with a couple of jigs for forming a structure made of a fiber-reinforced composite by heating under a pressure, wherein said auxiliary jig is provided between said jigs, and comprises means for preventing said jigs from falling down and for restraining a resin contained in said fiber-reinforced composite from flowing out from an interspace between said jigs, wherein said auxiliary jigs comprises a rigid portion and an elastic portion.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The auxiliary jig according to claim 1 wherein said rigid portion is made of a stainless steel, aluminum, graphite or CFRP.

4. (previously presented) The auxiliary jig according to claim 1, wherein said elastic portion is made of a silicone rubber.

5. (previously presented) The auxiliary jig according to claim 1, wherein said auxiliary jig is used for producing a stiffened panel by a method comprising the steps of: placing a skin member and a preformed stiffener member, each made of a fiber-reinforced composite, on a forming tool; disposing said couple of jigs on said preformed stiffener member; providing said auxiliary jig between said jigs; and integrally forming said skin member and said preformed stiffener member by heating under a pressure.

6. (previously presented) A method of producing a stiffened panel of a fiber-reinforced composite, using a couple of jigs, said method comprising the steps of:

placing a skin member and a preformed stiffener member, each made of a fiber-reinforced composite, on a forming tool;

disposing said couple of jigs on said preformed stiffener member;  
providing an auxiliary jig having a rigid portion and an elastic portion;  
preventing said couple of jigs from falling down, and restraining a resin,  
contained in said fiber-reinforced composite, from flowing out, by placing said auxiliary  
jig between said couple of jigs;

and integrally forming said skin member and said preformed stiffener member by  
heating under a pressure.

7. (previously presented): An apparatus for producing a stiffened panel of a fiber-  
reinforced composite by heating under pressure, said apparatus comprising:

a forming tool;  
a couple of jigs, disposed on said forming tool, for receiving a skin member and a  
preformed stiffener member, each made of a fiber-reinforced composite containing a  
resin; and

an auxiliary jig disposed between said couple of jigs,  
said auxiliary jig comprising means for preventing falling down of said couple of  
jigs, and for restraining the resin from flowing out,  
said means comprising a rigid portion of said auxiliary jig and an elastic portion of  
said auxiliary jig.

8. (cancelled)